

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I understand what the majority leader is saying, what he is trying to do. But if he continued to push these amendments over to a piece of legislation at a later time, then you are going to have all these amendments that are waiting, and your colleagues will want to bring them up, and then your colleagues will be asked not to bring it up on that one.

So we go through here with this constrained time that we find ourselves with, and the inability to bring amendments. I understand what the majority leader wants to do. I have no fault with what he is trying to do except we are trying to work out some amendments that we think are important. Just like your side, we are going to let ours try to work them out.

So I will object.

Mr. LOTT. I understand that. I know every individual Senator can demand his or her right to offer amendments. But I would have to say, I am very concerned that the Senate is getting more and more into a position where we try to rewrite or write bills on the floor of the Senate. One of the basic tenets I was told about when I came over to the Senate is, if you have a bad bill, don't think you are going to fix it on the floor of the Senate. When you have something like a drug czar reauthorization—I know there are a lot of drug-related amendments that are sort of pent up and Members want to offer them, but it seems to me we ought to just reauthorize that office—it is not a big, complicated bill—and allow the drug czar to do his job.

But we will keep working and hopefully find a way to get a limited amount of time and limited amendments on that issue.

#### PRODUCT LIABILITY REFORM ACT OF 1997

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate turn to Calendar No. 90, S. 648, the Product Liability Reform Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. FORD. Reserving the right to object, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. I move to proceed to S. 648 and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provision of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 90, S. 648, the products liability bill:

Trent Lott, Don Nickles, Slade Gorton, Phil Gramm, John McCain, Spencer Abraham, Daniel Coats, Richard G. Lugar, Lauch Faircloth, John H. Chafee, Sam Brownback, Ted Stevens,

Jon Kyl, Jeff Sessions, Michael B. Enzi, and Judd Gregg.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, and the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Then, for the information of all Senators, this cloture vote will occur at 9:30 on Tuesday, July 7, when we return from the Fourth of July recess. It will be the first vote of that week back from the recess. If cloture is invoked, the Senate could be asked to remain in session into the night in order to reduce the 30 hours provided postcloture.

I now withdraw the motion.

#### TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator DASCHLE and I have been talking about a task force to consider the question of economic sanctions, how they are put in place, how they are dealt with, both in the short term and over the long term. We have discussed this matter with Secretary of State Albright.

I think there is feeling on both sides of the aisle that perhaps the proclivity to place sanctions, economic sanctions on countries around the world repeatedly, and with not a clear way of ending those, has become a problem, at least one we should think very carefully about to see if there is a way we can deal with some of the pending legislation in this area, like, for instance, the Glenn amendment that was applicable in the case of India and, I believe, Pakistan with the Pressler amendment, and a number of other instances.

On the longer term, I think we need to have a task force to give thought, how we do this, when we do it, and even when we end it. I have discussed it with a number of Senators on our side of the aisle who work in this area of foreign policy and deal with the question of sanctions, and so I am satisfied we can have a good group and this will be a bipartisan group. So I want to announce we are agreeing to create a task force on economic sanctions to examine this whole area.

I wanted to have a short-term mandate, though, not just the broader policy questions, but to examine what we can do or what should be done about sanctions on India and Pakistan as a result of their nuclear programs. With the recent stories of nuclear tests in south Asia, it is important to look at the U.S. sanctions laws and how they affect our ability to de-escalate the nuclear arms race in the region.

I have asked the task force to make recommendations to the Senate leadership by July 15, 1998, on sanctions relating to these two countries—India and Pakistan. We will also ask this task force to examine overall issues related to sanctions, legislation, and implementation.

I have asked the task force to report back to the Senate leadership by September 1, 1998, on the following issues:

What constitutes a sanction?

There are many categories of legislative and executive branch action, using economic sanctions in an effort to support policy goals, including restrictions on U.S. Government funds, conditions on the export of sensitive technology, and limitations on normal commercial activity.

What sanctions are now in place? And what flexibility is provided in these different sanctions? That would be a second question.

Third: How should success be assessed in determining the effectiveness of these sanctions? When have we done what we wanted to achieve, and then can perhaps remove them?

Fourth: How should policy goals be defined in considering and implementing these sanctions?

Are effective procedures in place now to ensure coordination between the executive and legislative branches for the consideration and imposition of sanctions?

I have to say, I think the answer to that question is no; there is not adequate coordination and communication between the executive and legislative branches in this area of sanctions.

Are effective procedures in place for oversight and monitoring of the executive branch compliance and implementation of existing sanctions?

I have been stunned by some of the instances that I have seen with regard to Russia and with China where clearly sanctions were called for, should have been almost automatic by the administration, and it did not happen. Why not? And so we need to think about that.

Should there be a unique Senate floor or committee procedure for considering sanctions legislation?

Answering all of these questions in the limited timeframe will not be easy, but I am confident this very distinguished and qualified bipartisan group can come up with some very good recommendations. And I hope that the Senate will reserve its judgment and not act in this area until we see what will come out of the task force recommendations.

The task force will include 18 Members and will be chaired by the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, Senator McCONNELL. He is chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. The cochair will be Senator BIDEN. The task force will also include Senators HELMS, BAUCUS, LUGAR, DODD, D'AMATO, GLENN, MACK, KERRY, KYL, LEAHY, WARNER, LEVIN, HUTCHINSON, LIEBERMAN, ROBERTS, and MOYNIHAN. I think you can see this is a very distinguished group. And I know they will have some very important recommendations to the Senate.

I will be glad to yield to the Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. I thank the leader.